

XXII. *Lehrbuch der Operativen Chirurgie*. Von Dr. ERNEST LEOP. GROSSHEIM, Königl. Preuss. Stabsarzt, Inhaber des Königl. Preuss. Allgemeinen Ehrenzeichens 1ster Klasse, Ritter des Kaiserl. Russ. St. Wladimir Ordens 4ter Klasse, Mitglied der Med. Chir. Gesellschaft zu Berlin und der Med. Chir. Akademie zu St. Petersburg. Erster Theil. pp. 559. Berlin, 1830. Zweiter Theil. pp. 697. Berlin, 1831.

*A Compendium of Operative Surgery*. By Dr. ERNEST LEOPOLD GROSSHEIM, Physician of the Royal Prussian Staff, Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Berlin, of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy of St. Petersburg, &c. &c. 2 vols. Berlin, 1830, 1831.

Amongst the various works, which have recently appeared on the subject of operative surgery, none have afforded us more satisfaction, than that which we have announced above. It is precisely such a manual as we should be pleased to see placed in the hands of every student of surgery, for whose use it is admirably adapted. Nor would it prove less useful to the practitioner, who would find in its pages all the most approved operative procedures of his art, delineated in a clear, comprehensive, and concise style, and arranged in a perspicuous and natural order. It is not extended by any thing superfluous, or mystified by vague and useless speculations. It may, indeed, be said to contain the very quintessence of the science, divested of all extraneous materials.

Under each head the author gives a brief exposition of the objects of the operation, and a succinct account of its history, in which are traced the various procedures which have been employed up to the present time. He then lays down the circumstances which call for its employment; those by which it is contraindicated; the instruments and apparatus necessary in its execution; the disposal of the patient and assistants; the different acts or steps of the operation itself; the particular variations of them which will be necessary to suit special conditions or emergencies; the application of the dressings, together with the after-treatment of the patient. Nor does he confine himself to the exposition of a single method of operating, in any particular case in which more than one may be adopted. He lays down the order of procedure to be adopted in each, with the same detail; discusses their several advantages and disadvantages, and thus leaves it to the option of the surgeon, to adopt that which he may consider best adapted to any particular case.

The work is divided into two parts; the first of which treats of those operations which may be practised upon any part of the body, while the second embraces the consideration of such as are only performed upon particular regions; as the head and neck, the trunk, and the upper and lower extremities. This order is sufficiently natural, and is, we think, much better than the method sometimes adopted of grouping together the different operations according to their affinities, without any reference to the parts upon which they are to be performed.

We cannot conclude without expressing our regret that so little attention is paid in this country to the rich fountains of German medical literature, and, that while we are translating so freely from the French, so many invaluable productions which are constantly issuing from the German press, are suffered

to remain as a sealed volume to the members of the profession in America. We have already recommended a translation of the excellent manual of Chelius, as one of the best handbooks for students, on the principles of surgery, with which we are acquainted. We will now take the liberty of recommending the adoption of the same course with regard to the work of Dr. Grossheim, which we consider one of the best manuals of operative surgery that could be put into the hands of our students.

E. G.

XXIII. *Handbuch der Chirurgie zum Gebrauche öffentlicher Vorlesungen.* Von JOSEPH EDLIN V. WATTMANN, ordentlichem öffentlichem Professor der Praktischen Chirurgie, Direktor des k. k. Operateur-Institutes, Mitglied der Königlich medicinisch-chirurgischen Akademie zu Neapel. I. Theil. 1. Band. Allgemeine Krankheitslehre in Beziehung auf örtliche Gebrechen. II. Theile. I. Band. Allgemeine Heilungslehre in Beziehung auf örtliche Gebrechen. pp. 281 und 244. Wien, 1829.

*A Manual of Surgery, for the use of Public Lectures.* By JOSEPH EDLIN V. WATTMANN, Professor of Practical Surgery, &c. &c. Vienna, 1829.

This work, as will be seen by the title, is divided into two parts; the first of which is devoted to the general pathology of such local diseases as affect the whole system; the second to the general therapeutic management of the same affections. The author announces it as his intention to treat, in subsequent volumes, of the special pathology and therapeutics of the remaining surgical diseases. The first part of the portion of the work commences with some preliminary observations, in which the author indulges in some speculations upon the proper merits of theory and experience, with which we are not much concerned. He seems to adopt the old maxim that—*nihil est in intellectu, quod non prius fuerat in sensu*. He next furnishes us with a general definition of disease, after which he enters more directly upon the proper discussion of the subject. The order in which this discussion is conducted may be conceived from the following exposition.

“As in all diseases, the organism may be considered as in part active, and in part passive, their general pathology may be reduced to two heads. The first division will include the mere disturbance of the organism, which may be considered under three divisions. The first will relate to the causes of disease, (*Ætiology*;) the second to their nature or essence, (*Pathogeny*;) the third their form or external manifestations, (*Symptomatology*.) The second division will include the phenomena of the reaction of the organism, and may likewise be divided into three parts:—1. The phenomena of slight, or ordinary reaction, (*the cause and termination of disease*.) 2. Extraordinary local reaction, (*Inflammation*;) and 3. The same extraordinary reaction, affecting the entire organism, (*Fever*.”) p. 22.

Each of these subjects is discussed in detail; the various circumstances and contingencies involved are carefully examined, and ably illustrated, and the whole of this portion of our author's labours, taken collectively, may be considered as furnishing a very good exposition of the general pathology of the diseases of which he professes to treat.

The second part of the work opens with some general definitions of the therapeutic art, and a brief history of its development, as connected with surgery.